

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

**April 11, 2016**

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates:

**April 13-** District 97 Choral Festival (7 pm at OPRF)

**April 14** - 5th grade homeroom spelling bee

**April 15** - Staff vs. Student basketball game

**April 20** - Parent Workshop: Navigating Friendships - Helping Your Child Develop Social Competence and Confidence

**April 29** - Lock In!

**Now - April 29** - CAN DO community challenge food drive

**5th GRADE PARCC TESTING DATES:** April 11, April 12, April 15, April 18, April 25, April 26, April 28

## News:

### Headphones for PARCC

All students need headphones for our upcoming PARCC assessments. Please check in with your student to confirm that they have headphones at school. If your student is unable to obtain headphones, please let your teacher know and we will be happy to help locate a pair.

### CAN DO Community Challenge (Food Drive)

Please donate!! All local schools are invited to participate in the CAN DO Community Challenge to heighten awareness about hunger and the need to get involved with the Food Pantry at a time when donations are traditionally at their lowest. The school that brings in the most donations will be awarded the CAN DO Community Challenge trophy. Holmes will be accepting donations until April 29th. Monetary donations can be made [here](#).

### The Holmes School Spelling Bee!!

Spring is in the air and the bees will begin to start buzzing – it's spelling bee time. Preliminary rounds for each 1st - 5th grade classroom will be conducted during the school day (see dates below). Teachers will provide study lists. Each class will produce 2 finalists and 1 alternate (available in case one of the finalists can't make the finals competition for any reason). The final round competitions will be held in the evening by grade.

Here are the dates to remember:

March 23 (Wed):- Preliminary word lists distributed to students

April 4-15 - Preliminary rounds to be held in class

April 27 (Wed) - Final round for finalists in each grade (1st 5th)

(6pm start time with staggered start times by grade)

### **Parent Workshop: Navigating Friendships - Helping Your Child Develop Social Competence & Confidence**

*Wednesday, April 20th, 6:30-8:30pm, Holmes Auditorium*

The PTO is proud to partner with Parenthesis and Smartlove Family Services to host a parent workshop "Navigating Friendships: Helping Your Child Develop Social Competence & Confidence."

Join us on Wednesday, April 20 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Holmes School Auditorium. Child care will be provided and we request that you register ahead of time so that we may plan accordingly.

For more information about this workshop, you can access the flyer [here](#).

### **Typing Practice**

Students can log on to Typing Training from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

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**Click here for our 2nd trimester newsletter- [SPECIALS DELIVERY](#)**

### **Art**

We'll be finishing up printmaking, beginning for some/continuing for others stop-motion and beginning weaving in the next few weeks.

~Ms. Jones ([kjones@op97.org](mailto:kjones@op97.org))

### **Music**

We will be learning the melody to our Completion Ceremony song. We will also be review the different orchestral instruments families with a lesson focusing on "Peter and the Wolf".

### **Chorus**

We are now practicing for our District Festival which is on **April 13th**. Please click this link- [permission slip](#)- if you have not filled out the form yet. We will be traveling to Lincoln school on Tuesday morning for our second practice. 5th graders will be going in the afternoon on Tuesday to Brooks for the school tour. We will also be performing at the Chicago Wolves game on Saturday April 16th

### **Spanish**

The fifth graders continue work with their [superhistoria about un cerdo named Pancho](#). Students acted out the story last week in class and are now creating imovies.

### **Library, Reading Olympics**

The Reading Olympics **Extreme Round** will be held at the OPPL Thursday, April 21. The Holmes competition will be the previous week. All 18 books will be on the competition question list!

<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/Reading-Olympics.cfm>

### **Library**

Just before spring break, we started a new research project. Students will be researching a country of their choice, writing a narrative from the point of view of a student in that country, and making a movie that highlights a "day in the life..." in that country. We will be using the CultureGrams database through the OPPL [Homework Help](#) page. While the majority of the project will be done in the library, students may wish to access the databases at home or interview a parent, family member, or friend about the country they are researching. To access the database, students will need an OPPL card and

PIN. Don't forget to email me with any questions! [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org)

### **Physical Education**

April 15th is our Annual Student vs, Staff Basketball Game. April also brings about our Dance Unit. The kids will be moving to different tunes while they boogie down to our p.e. School district Xbox 360 system. The dance unit will go on for the entire month of April.

### **Reading/Literature**

This week, we will be continuing with our third trimester ELA Unit, titled "Change and Identity." Throughout this unit, students will be focusing on the following question, especially in relation to their transition to middle school: *What factors shape who you are as an individual and your role within society?* We will continue reading our anchor text, *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt. Students will be focusing on figurative language and character development while reading.

Please make sure there is a parent or guardian checking, and initialing, students' reading logs each night!

### **Writing**

Our writing time will be spent working on an expository writing piece about a great thinker. Students will be using research methods used for other essays to apply to this one.

### **Math**

This week, we begin our decimals unit. We will start by reviewing place value concepts and discussing the relationship between fractions and decimals. A major focus for the week will be on rounding decimals to any place. Due to PARCC testing, we will have shortened math classes this week and homework will be assigned only on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please check the 5th grade wiki for the homework assignments.

### **Science**

In science this week, we will be starting our new life sciences unit and introducing biomes. The students will be creating posters of their assigned biome and designing a house that would suit that particular environment. Thank you all to a successful science fair!

### **Social Studies**

This week students will continue to review their Colonial Handbills using Google Maps. We learned about this process from our technology specialist, Elizabeth Conway. Students are completing a Scavenger Hunt in which they find facts about the 13 colonies in one another's Colonial Handbills.

### **Word Study**

This week, we will work within Unit 4 Lesson 18 of our vocabulary curriculum, which focuses on the Latin bases *duc* and *duct* meaning "lead." Students will have word work for this lesson due on Friday.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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